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This series deals in a popular way with different phases of the tariff policy of various countries. Each volume is prefaced by a brief summary of the history of protection and free trade, and then follow chapters relating to subjects of special importance to individual countries, such as the protection of agriculture, the protection of manufactures, protection and trade, protection and taxation, the tariff and trusts, protection and politics, labor and wages, protection and industrial welfare, tariff treaties and tariff wars, conclusions, etc.

The books are written primarily for the British public, and go to swell the mass of literature that is appearing at the present time in England in connection with the agitation of the Chamberlain scheme for imperial preferential tariffs. The authors, with varying degrees of success, aim at impartial treatment. Mr. Dawson, the editor of the series and the author of the book relating to Germany, is most successful in this particular. His book is the best of the series. He is much less addicted to the unscientific attitude of trying to make out a case for free trade or protection. From reading the work on Canada and Australasia we are not only led, but compelled, to infer that poor times are due in those countries to protection, while Mr. Low would have us believe that free trade or a tariff for revenue only in the United States is an all-sufficient explanation for the lack of prosperity. For example, at the close of his very brief introductory chapter the author says: "Thus in little more than the first quarter of a century of national existence the relative merits of free trade and protection had been tested, and the advantages of protection had been demonstrated." This is the characteristic attitude of the author throughout the entire work.

In general it may be said that the series is valuable to the Anglo-American public because of a dearth of English works dealing with foreign commercial policies. The books dealing with Germany and France are especially valuable in this connection. The work treating the tariff of the United States has little value for an American reader, since the subject has been better handled by a number of other writers, such as Taussig and Rabbeno.

GEORGE MYGATT FISK.

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Labor Organization among Women. By BELVA MARY HERRON.
(Studies of the University of Illinois.) Urbana: The University Press, 1905. 8vo, pp. 79.

A careful study of the progress of labor organization among women is a most welcome contribution to our knowledge of one of the most important phases of women's work. Miss Herron makes no attempt in this monograph to discuss trade-unionism by and large in either its theoretical or practical aspects, but confines herself closely to a statement of the facts regarding the organizations in which women are found in the largest numbers, and a discussion of the effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of women as unionists.

After an investigation of the status of women in fourteen of the principal labor organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, two questions should perhaps be raised: (1) Is there any evidence to show that women are to be considered a factor in the trade-union movement in this country today? (2) How do women differ from men as trade-unionists? A third question, as to the reasons why women should belong to unions, also suggests itself, but appears on second thought to be superfluous, for there is no special women's problem here. There are the same advantages in organization for women as for men.

With regard to the first question, it is clear that woman's rôle in trade-unionism is a very slight one. Though admitted into almost all the unions on the same footing as men, they have little or no influence on the organizations. Occasionally they serve as delegates to conventions, but the number of such delegates is very far from being in proportion to the number of women members. In short, it seems fair to say that women are not to be considered a factor in present-day unionism.

With regard to the differences between women and men as members of labor organizations, Miss Herron's own statement should be quoted:

[Women] are not as well organized as men—a smaller percentage is in the union than is in the trade. Nearly all officials testify that it is harder to organize women than men; a number say that when they once do understand union principles and become interested in the movement, they are excellent workers; there is a unanimous opinion that there are always some capable working-women and active unionists whose good sense and enthusiasm are of great advantage to the organization. (P. 66.)

In summarizing the conditions unfavorable to women's effectiveness in trade unions, Miss Herron regards as temporary the drawbacks which come from the "several trades"—the low degree of vitality and intelligence which result from miserable wages and bad

sanitation; but she points out that there are other and permanent difficulties in the way — that women are the unskilled workers, and lack of vital interest in the trade; that many of them are young and do not take their industrial situation seriously; that they have more home interests; that most of them expect to marry, and regard their work as only a temporary employment, which results “in an unwillingness to sacrifice any present for a future good, as is often necessary in the union, or to give time and energy to build up an organization with which they will be identified but a few years.”

Those who have faith that there are large possibilities for women in industry, when the conventional ideas regarding women's work shall have been readjusted, will not be inclined to regard these difficulties as “permanent” in any true sense. It may be suggested here that the largest field of usefulness for such organizations as the Women's Trade Union League lies in attempting to remove these very difficulties. There is no ineradicable reason why women should not be given proper industrial training, and there is abundant testimony to show that they become very efficient workers with such training. Miss Herron points out that women are in industrial life to stay, and if that is true, we must help them to stay self-respectingly — as skilled laborers with a decent wage and an honest, workmanlike attitude toward their work.

On the whole, the monograph is one for which those who are interested in working-women should be grateful. It not only contains interesting and valuable information regarding women as unionists, but it also throws some much-needed light on the difference between women's work and men's work. In certain important industries it contains a short account of the relation of women to the earlier labor movement in the United States, a brief history of women's trade unions in England, and sketches of organizations, like the Women's Trade Union League, which are in sympathy with the movement for the organization of working-women.

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Municipal Public Works: Their Inception, Construction, and Management. By S. WHINERY. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903. Pp. vii + 241.

It is a hopeful sign when practical municipal engineers so far recognize the scientific basis of municipal administration as to turn